(i) The woman is an Indian passport holder.

(ii) The marriage of the woman has been solemnized in India.

(iii) The woman is deserted in India or after reaching abroad within five years of the marriage.

(iv) Divorce proceedings are initiated within five years of the marriage by her overseas Indian spouse.

(v) An ex-parte divorce has been obtained by the overseas Indian spouse within ten years of the marriage and a case for maintenance and alimony is to be filed.

(vi) The scheme would not be available to a woman facing criminal charges or having a criminal case decided against her.

(vii) The domicile of the woman seeking relief under the scheme is not relevant for allowing the benefit. The woman may be domiciled in the country of her overseas Indian spouse or in India at the time of making the application.

(viii) Preference may be given to applicants on the basis of financial needs.

(ix) Assistance will be limited to meeting initial cost and incidental charges for documentation and filing of the case by the Indian women's organization/NGO on the woman's behalf.

(x) The assistance will be limited to US $ 1000 per case and will be released to the Indian community organizations/NGO concerned to enable it to take steps to assist the woman in documentation and preparatory work for filing the case.

(xi) The women's organization/NGO will make efforts to enlist community advocates, preferably women advocates, to extend further legal assistance/appearance in court etc. on a pro-bono basis.

Pattern of Assistance

Under the scheme Indian Missions in the countries concerned would empanel credible Indian Women's Organizations/Indian Community Associations/NGOs and their member advocates, preferably women, to provide legal aid to the victims in distress and whose names have been approved by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. The applications for providing legal aid received by the Missions would by examined by an officer designated by the Head of the Mission on case-to-case basis and approved by Head of Mission/Deputy Chief of the Mission.

The applications received in the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs will be examined by an internal committee consisting of a legal advisor and an officer of the rank of Director/Deputy Secretary and approved by Secretary. Thereafter, the Ministry will recommend the case to Mission concerned to provide legal aid support. The applicant would also be informed to approach the Mission concerned in this regard.

Attack on temple in Trinidad

484. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a temple was attacked in Trinidad which is linked to the memory of arrival of the Indian there;

(b) whether he had also seen that temple during his stay there; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Waterloo temple was vandalized in the night of August 3-4, 2007 by unknown persons.

(b) Yes, Sir, on 30th May, 2007 during my visit to that country.

(c) The Mission has taken up the matter with concerned authorities as a result of which the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has intensified police patrolling in the area to avoid repetition of the incident. The temple has been fully refurbished through donations and the temple management is awaiting murtis from India.

Indians returning from abroad

485. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to get back the persons who have been instructed by their respective countries to go to India;

(b) if so, the details of such persons whom Government have helped to get them back to India during the last three years, State-wise, especially the people from Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government have given jobs to such persons in Andhra Pradesh through Job Mela;

(d) if so, the beneficiaries from such Mela in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the steps Government are taking to help them in all possible ways?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Address by UPA Chairperson in UN

† 486. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the address by Smt. Sonia Gandhi on Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday on 2nd October in the United Nations was opposed by the Indian-Americans;

(b) whether her eligibility was questioned by them; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Details are being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.